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To the DAILY GAZETTEER.

SIR,



THE Reputation of a certain Honourable Gentleman, whom the *Craftsman* and his Allies have so injuriously defamed, upon account of the *Bank Contract*, hath been so judiciously defended, that it may seem almost unnecessary to combat any longer with an Imputation, which hath already been fully detected, to the Shame and Confusion of his Adversaries.

I shall therefore only make a few obvious Remarks on the Case, as it is stated by the *Craftsman* himself; and close this Dispute, by condemning this disingenuous Writer from his own Words, as fully and effectually, as his Patrons have been already condemned by their Actions.

The Evidence brought to prove that the Honourable Gentleman made the Contract between the *Bank* and the *South Sea Company*, is founded upon his having attended at two Meetings with the Directors of each Company and the Ministry, and drawing up the Contract in his own Hand-writing.

A Committee of both Companies was assembled for this Purpose, and with more Formality, I believe, than ever was known on the like Occasion, being attended by *Five principal Persons in the Administration*, as Witnesses and Guarantees of what should be done; and the Original was deposited in the Hands of one of the Gentlemen in the Administration.

It is agreed on all Hands, that the Honourable Gentleman was not then in the Administration; but was sent for by the Ministry out of the Country, to procure the Directors of the *Bank* to give the Ministry and the Directors of the *South Sea Company* a Meeting. Now could ask the *Craftsman*, upon this short State of the Case, supposing the Parliament had impeached these *Five principal Persons in the Administration*, who were present when this Contract was drawn up, and had charged them with being the Authors of it, does he imagine they would have relied upon so weak a Defence as this; 'My Lords, we did not make the Contract between the *Bank* and the *South Sea Company*; it was made by Sir R. W., and here it is ready to be produced, *all in his own Hand-writing*.'

This whole Dispute is a meer Juggle, and a mean juggling about Words. Tho' it should be admitted, that the Honourable Gentleman made, i. e. drew up the Contract, it was the Ministry who were the *Makers*, in the highest and most significant Sense of the Word; and advised and projected it.

Should be glad to know who is to be considered as *Maker* of an Article of Copartnership: Is the Attorney who draws and ingrosses the Deeds, the *Maker*, the Contractors? If the Articles of Partnership should afterwards prove inconvenient, upon an Alteration in their Circumstances and Fortunes, and they should blame the Attorney for making them, he would certainly reply, 'Gentlemen, you made the Articles yourselves, I only drew them up, and ingrossed them, as your Attorney.'

Will put the Case still stronger, and suppose that Attorney negotiated and settled the Partnership between them. Even this will not make him a Principal in the Affair, because he did not act for himself, but for Clients.

If this Doctrine will hold, and the Amanuensis who draws up a Treaty, Contract, or Agreement, be deemed the *Maker*; if that be the distinguishing Characteristick of an Author or Master-workman, what become of the *Craftsman's* immortal *Collection*, that Work from whence Posterity are to form their Judgment of the present Times? Hath he not by this Argument refuted and invalidated all he hath been labouring for these Ten Years past? Hath he not imputed our Treaties and Negotiations to the same Honourable Gentleman, and will he venture to affirm, that he drew any of them up in his own Hand-writing?

If any Man pretends to reason, he must never depart from the Maxims he has once laid down; but go by the same Rule in the one Case as in the other: Now here the *Craftsman* is defective; for he charges one and the same Gentleman with having made a Contract, because he drew it up, and yet would have the same Gentleman answerable for Treaties and Contracts, which were drawn up by other People.

Now I am very ready to give the *Craftsman* his Option, and to reason with him after he has made his Choice: But he must not grind the Honourable Gentleman both Ways at once. He shall be considered as the *Maker* of the Bank Contract, if he pleases, because he drew it up, tho' others contrived and promoted it; but then he shall not be considered as the *Maker* of those Treaties, Contracts, or Agreements, which were drawn up by others.

This may suffice with respect to the making of the Bank Contract. The next Point to be considered, is the Reflection which the *Craftsman* hath made upon the Honourable Gentleman's Veracity, because he mistook a trivial Matter, and, thro' Forgetfulness, thought he had been present only at one Meeting instead of two, and that he had drawn up but one Paper instead of two.

When any Gentleman is charged with a Falshood, and defends himself by pleading Forgetfulness, the Publick will judge, partly by the Character of the Gentleman accused, and partly by the Circumstances of the Case.

As to the Character of the Gentleman accused, the Imputation of Falshood will not stick with him, however it may suit some *once Honourable Gentleman*, whom I could name; in regard the former is generally reputed to be a Man of his Word, even by those who are no Friends to his Administration.

The Circumstances which the Publick will naturally inquire into are:

1. How long ago the Fact happened? And the Answer is, — *Fifteen Years*.

2. WHETHER the Article, in which the Mistake was made, be of any Consequence? And the Answer is, — *Not the least in the World*.

UPON this the Accusation must of course be pronounced False and Groundless, and an additional Mark of Infamy fix'd upon the Accuser, who was pretty well stigmatized before.

BUT what a lamentable Figure does an Accuser make, who not only brings a false and groundless Charge against another; but by the Words of the Accusation, doth in the strongest Manner prove the Innocence of the Party accus'd, and his own enormous Guilt and Prostitution?

HERE are the *Craftsman's* own Words; 'Nay, perhaps *he* might find upon Enquiry, that he not only drew up this Paper, but made two Copies from it in his own Hand-writing, viz. one for each Company; and I have heard it whisper'd about, that it cost him some Trouble to get up those: but it seems he forgot the Original, or might possibly think it was lost, after such a Distance of Time, and a Multitude of other Affairs. This seems to have been the fatal Mistake, and what drew him into such an awkward Dilemma.'

THE Shamefulness of these Suggestions will appear more plainly, by placing them in the following Dialogue.

Q. PRAY, Mr. D'Anvers, was the Honourable Gentleman at one or two Meetings?

A. He was at both the Meetings, and drew up not only the Minutes of a Contract, but afterwards drew up a complete Agreement.

Q. ARE you sure of this?

A. It has been prov'd; and I have charg'd him with Falshood for denying it.

Q. MIGHT he not forget it thro' Length of Time?

A. THAT is not very probable, for he made two Copies of the Contract, one for each Company, and the Original was deposited in the Hands of a principal Person then in the Administration.

Q. ARE the Original and the Copies still subsisting?

A. No: I have heard it whisper'd, that it cost him some Trouble to get up the Copies; but it seems he

forgot the Original, which is still ready to be produc'd, all in his own Hand-writing.

It appears from hence, that the Honourable Gentleman did actually forget the whole Transaction; for if he forgot that the original Contract was lodg'd in the Hands of a *principal Person in the late Administration*, he must necessarily forget the Paper itself; the Ideas of drawing up the Paper, and the important Circumstance of lodging it in the Hands of so remarkable a Man at the same time, being, as I apprehend, so inseparably connected, that it is not possible to conceive how the Honourable Gentleman should forget the one, and yet remember the other.

THIS Imputation of Falshood is gross and scandalous in the highest Degree; and the Story of getting up the Copies with great Trouble, from an Apprehension of Danger, and yet forgetting that the original Contract was, at the Time of making it, directly lodged in his own Presence, in the Hands of one, who has long since appeared his Enemy, are such Inconsistencies, as do intirely destroy the Credit of this Writer, either as to Integrity or Impartiality.

UPON the whole Matter, I make my Appeal to every disinterested Man in Britain, whether the *Craftsman* be a true and sincere Representer of Men and Things; nay, I appeal to himself, whether he hath not in the present Case play'd the Sophister, and quibbled with Words, in order to deceive the unwary Reader, and blast the Reputation of an innocent Man.

AS to the prevailing upon the *South Sea Company* to recede from their Contract, it was the most commendable Action in the World; the *Bank* must otherwise have broke, and the Government been overturn'd. The Honourable Gentleman hath been ever since pursued by the Rage and Fury of a malignant Faction, because he had the Wisdom and the Fortitude to make a Stand, and extricate his Country out of all its Difficulties.

THE Remission of the two Millions to the *South Sea Company* by Parliament, was indispensibly necessary; the Company could not pay it, nor the Legislature exact it, without the greatest Aggravation; and the Debt must have been forgiven, if no Bank Contract had ever been made.

LET not the People of England be deceiv'd by specious Pretences, and unfair Glosses. No Money was given to the *South Sea Company*, but they were only forgiven a Debt, which they did not previously borrow of, but had contracted to pay to the Government, for the Liberty of increasing their Capital Stock, by taking in Subscriptions.

THE Company's Agreement to pay this Money to the Government, was founded upon the Profit they expected to make by their Subscriptions; and every Shilling that the Company got thereby, the Subscribers lost of course.

A little Reflection will demonstrate this Truth. Suppose, for instance, I subscribe for 1000 Stock at 300, and pay either Part, or all the Money down; does the Company propose to give me a Dividend equal to the Interest of my Money, or not? If not, then it is a barefaced Cheat; but if the Dividend be equal, then the Company can get nothing by such a Scheme, and consequently cannot pay any thing on account thereof.

AND it is an eternal Truth, that the *South Sea Scheme*, was, in its original Frame and Constitution, an arrant Fraud and Imposition upon the Sense of Mankind; because that Company could not possibly employ the Money they receiv'd upon their Subscriptions, so as to make any Improvement for the Proprietors.

It was otherwise with the *Bank*, who being in a visible Way of getting something, would have made some Advantage by taking Subscriptions, because they could have found out Ways and Means for employing the Money, which the *South Sea Company* was not able to accomplish.

THE *South Sea Company* however took in Subscriptions, and the Stock rose to a prodigious Height; so that the last Subscriptions were made at 800 and 1000 per Cent.

UPON the Fall of the Stock to its original Price of 100, it became the Wisdom of Parliament to provide the best Relief they were able, for the unhappy Sufferers.

EVERY Farthing of the Money paid in upon the Subscriptions, would have been forfeited of course to the

See Craftsman, July 26.

* See Craftsman July 19.

† Sir R. W.



the Company, by the Non-compliance of the Subscribers with the subsequent Payments.

And the Annuitants, upon the Forfeiting of their Subscriptions, would have had from 5s. to 2s. 6d. in the Pound, for the Value of their Annuitants.

And then the Company, by this vast Extension of publick Ruin, would have been in a Capacity of paying the Government some Millions for the Bargain.

But the Legislature interpos'd, and lowered all the Company's Subscriptions to 300, and afterwards gave the Subscribers farther additional Stock, whereby they were again reduced to near 200. This greatly alleviated the publick Calamity, but at the same time disabled the Company from paying any Money to the Government, the sole Foundation of the Agreement being by this Interposition taken away.

But further; the greatest Part of the Money paid in upon the Subscriptions was lost and imbezled, and of that Part which was recoverable of the Borrowers, the Parliament enacted, that only 10 per Cent. over and above the pledged Stock should be paid in full Satisfaction of the Company's Demands.

The Legislature therefore, having entirely alter'd the Property of the Company, and obliged them to relinquish the Benefit of their Subscriptions, Honour and Justice did require, that the Company should be forgiven the Money they had contracted to pay the Government; according to that establish'd Maxim, *they who would have Equity done, must do Equity themselves first.*

Thus you see upon what frivolous Pretences the most untainted Character in Life may be aspersed by the Malice of a virulent Pen, sharpen'd with the Chagrin and Disappointment of a cashier'd, resenting Statesman.

It was the Misfortune, and not the Crime of the Honourable Gentleman, to begin his Administration in a Time of publick Calamity; and he will be for ever remember'd with Honour, in the *British Annals*, as the Opposer of this destructive Scheme, when all these Calumnies are bury'd in Obscurity, and the real Authors of our Distress are gone off the Stage, with everlasting Infamy upon their Heads.

I am, S I R,

Lincoln's-Inn.

Your humble Servant,

WM. PRYNN.

† See a Pamphlet, entitled, *The Ministry and Government, &c. vindicated.*

Yesterday came in the Mail due from France, and another from Flanders.

Florence, Aug. 27.

TWO Turks having brought over some Tygers, Sheep, and other Animals, as a Present from the Bey of Tunis to the Great Duke. They carried them on Tuesday last to his Royal Highness, who ordered them 150 Pieces of Money called Rupees.

Rome, Aug. 27. Last Sunday there was a greater Concourse than ever in the Square Navona, both of the Nobility and Populace, because a Fish was exposed there, called a Sea-Tyger.

Thursday last being the Festival of St. Louis, the same was celebrated in the Church of that Saint, where there was an Assembly of Cardinals; upon which Occasion the French Ambassador caused a fine Anthem to be sung, at which were present the Chevalier de St. George and the Princes his Sons, a great Number of Cardinals, the Ambassador of Venice, &c. The Prince of Morocco was not imprison'd for Debt, but for other Reasons; and the Cardinal Corradini, Protector of the new Converts, having severely reprimanded him for the same, the Prince returned him such an insolent Answer, as has lost him all manner of Respect; and tis said, he will be committed for 10 Years to the Fortrefs of Civita Vecchia.

Hamburg, Sept. 9. An Ordonnance is published here for the better Observation of Sunday, commanding that those who keep Publick Houses, shall not entertain Company within 4 Hours after Divine Service, on the Penalty of 15 Crowns; and that such as go to Tiptle elsewhere within that Time, shall be punished in the same Way.

Paris, Sept. 17. The freshest Letters from the Army in Italy, which are of the 3d Instant, say, that when the Garison of Mirandola surrendered, it consisted of 1800 Men. Count Konigsegg, when he retired to the Mantuan, left 2500 Men in the Place; so that since that Time the Imperialists have lost 700 Men there, either by the Sword, Desertion or Sickness. The

Spaniards have had 300 Men killed and wounded before the Place. There is a great Mortality still in Mantua, where by the Report of several Deserters, the Commandant perceiving the Weakness of the Garison, has been obliged to impress 2000 of the Inhabitants into the Service, and to teach them the Military Exercise. Whatever Diligence the Allies could possibly use, it did not appear that they could begin the Siege of that Place in a Fortnight's Time.

L O N D O N .

Yesterday Morning about 8 o'Clock, his Grace the Duke of Dorset, with his Dutchess, and three Sons and Daughter, went from his Grace's House at Whitehall, to the Lady Betty Germain's House in St. James's Square, where they breakfasted; and about two o'Clock set out on the Road to Chester, in order to embark on board one of his Majesty's Yachts, for Ireland; the Parliament of that Kingdom being summoned to meet at Dublin, on the 7th of next Month.

On Tuesday last at the Burges Court, held at Westminster, Mr. Noel, a very considerable Dealer in Horses, was elected chief Burges of the said City and Liberty of Westminster, in the room of Mr. French, Timber-Merchant, deceased.

At the same Time Capt. Skelton was elected assitant Burges in the room of Mr. Noel.

Yesterday Morning Sir Edward Dearing, Bart. and Knight of the Shire for the County of Kent, was married at St. Ann's Church to Mrs. Mompesson, a Widow Gentlewoman of a plentiful Fortune.

We hear that last Week Edward Hassel, Esq; Son of the late Sir Edward Hassel of Dalemmain, Knight, was married to Miss Julian Musgrave, second Daughter of Sir Christopher Musgrave, of Eden-Hall, Bart. a beautiful young Lady with a good Fortune.

The Bishop of Ely continues dangerously ill at Hammer-smith.

Last Wednesday George Sutton, Brother to John Sutton, lately executed at Tyburn, was apprehended, on the Information of — Wynn, for being concern'd with him, and several others not yet taken, in divers Street Robberies, &c. and being carried before Justice Deveile, he was, after a long Examination, committed to the Gatehouse Westminster, and To-morrow he will be carried up for a second Examination.

Northampton, Sept. 5. We are assur'd from Warwick, that on the 26th past, six Prisoners in that Gaol, for Transportation, attempted to break out of the Dungeon, (but were prevented by the Turnkey's coming down early in the Morning) by the Help of a Locksmith, their Fellow Prisoner: They had got loose from their Handcuffs and Shackles, and were working thro' the Foundation Wall into the Street, in which they had made a Hole of a Yard square, towards an old Well, where they proposed to have secreted the Rubbish.

On Wednesday last a poor foolish Fellow, kept by his Grace the Duke of Bedford at Woobourn for many Years, innocently telling a Labourer, that he had no Business in the House from his Work, the Labourer took up a Pistol, amongst several that lay on the Table, and cock'd and snapp'd it at the Idiot, but not going off, he took up another; and being told by a Person then present, that such a Pistol was charg'd, and bid to take Care lest he kill'd the Fellow, he presently took up the same, and shot him thro' the Body; of which Wound on Friday Morning he died, and we hear the Fellow is since committed to Bedford Gaol.

Yesterday Bank Stock was 141 1-4th. India 150. South Sea 82 1-half. Million Bank 108. Old Annuity 107 3-4ths. New ditto 106 1-half. Three per Cent. 94 to 1-4th. Emperor's Loan 99 1-half. Royal-Assurance 97. London-Assurance 12 3-8ths. York Buildings 4. African 15 1-half. India Bonds 41. 19s. Premium. Three per Cent. ditto 21. 16s. Prem. South Sea Bonds 31. Prem. New Bank Circulation 31. 12s. 6d. Prem. Salt Talties 31. 5s. Premium. English Copper 21. 2s. Prem. Welsh ditto, Books shut. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 1 l. 5s. per Cent. Discount.

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*Tum Drances idem infensus, quem gloria Turni
Obliqua invidia stimulisque agitabat amaris.
Largus opum, & lingua melior, sed frigida bello
Dextera, consiliis habitus non futilis auctor,
Seditioe potens (genus huic materna superbum
Nobilitas dabit, incertum de patre ferebat.)*

VIRG.

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